



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently amended) A lighting unit comprising:

a lighting element provided with ~~a light source~~, a light guiding plate having a light emission face, facets and a rear face, ~~[[the]]~~ a light source provided at one of the facets thereof ~~and guiding light emitted from the light source~~ and a reflector covering ~~[[a]]~~ the rear face and the facets of the light guiding plate and the light source,

~~wherein said light source emits the light~~ emitted from the light source is guided into the light guiding plate and is emitted from [[a]] the light emission face outside the lighting element;

~~a reflector covering a rear face and the facets of the light guiding plate and the light source;~~

a housing covering an edge portion of the light emission face ~~of the lighting element~~, the facets and the rear face of the light guiding plate, lighting element; and

wherein heat discharge holes discharging heat generated in the lighting unit to the outside of the lighting unit are formed in a region of the housing which is located so as to correspond to the rear face of the light guiding plate; and

a shield portion ~~shielding gaps which are formed between the housing and the lighting element and extend to the light emission face;~~

~~wherein said shield portion is being~~ provided between at least the rear face of the light guiding plate lighting element and the housing so as to cover the heat discharge holes.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a frame portion which covers the edge portion of the light emission face and the facets of the ~~lighting element~~ light guiding plate, and a rear face supporting portion which covers the rear face of the ~~lighting element~~ light guiding plate and ~~[[the]]~~ a lower end portion of the frame portion.

4. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the shield portion is tabular and is positioned in such a fashion that an outer periphery thereof is between an inner periphery and an outer periphery of each of the frame portion.

5. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the shield portion has the shape of a box and is positioned in such a fashion that an outer periphery thereof is between an inner periphery and an outer periphery of each of the frame portion.

6. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein the shield portion is made from a material having heat conductivity higher than that of the air.

7. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device ~~characterized by~~ comprising: the lighting unit ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 1; and a liquid crystal panel disposed on the light emission face side of the lighting unit.

8. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device ~~characterized by~~ comprising: the lighting unit ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 6; and a liquid crystal panel disposed on the light emission face of the lighting unit.